

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 21, 2005, the Examiner rejected all of the pending claims 1-36. The Abstract has been replaced to improve readability, as suggested by the Examiner. The paragraph beginning on page 10, at line 8 of the specification has been replaced to improve clarity, as suggested by the Examiner. The paragraph beginning on page 13, at line 19, of the specification has been replaced to improve accuracy, as suggested by the Examiner. The paragraph beginning on page 22, at line 37, has been replaced to improve clarity. Finally, the paragraph beginning on page 24, at line 23, has been replaced to improve clarity.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the Abstract and the Specification be withdrawn.

Claims 1-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30, 32-34 and 36 have been amended to correct grammatical errors and antecedent basis errors, as required by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the objections and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be removed, as all issues presented by the Examiner have been addressed via claim amendments by the Applicants.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102, ANTICIPATION BY BEASLEY

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beasley. According to Beasley, it is directed to a computerized switching system for coupling a workstation to a remotely located computer. According to Beasley, the system allows centrally located network administrators to operate multiple server computers over long distances, without requiring a complicated writing scheme. See column 1, lines 45-50.

According to the present invention as defined by claims 1, 7 and 13, it is directed to a switching device for relaying data between terminals (for example, input units such as computer keyboards), private computers corresponding to the terminals, and a shared computer connected to the switching device. See Specification, page 6, lines 23-28. A security unit is included within the switching device of the present invention to ensure security of transmitted data. See Specification, page 29, lines 12-19. For example, the KB Microcomputer 3A includes an enciphering unit that utilizes an identification number (ID) to encipher a received key code to conduct identification processing. For example, if the ID is "n," the enciphering unit shifts the key code by n times. See Specification, page 24, lines 23-30. See *also* Fig. 1a and Fig. 4. The identification processing can prevent an erroneous transfer of data, thereby ensuring data security. See Specification, page 29, lines 20-26.

Currently amended independent claims 1 and 13 recite (method claim 7 recites similar language), in relevant part, “a security unit that executes for each terminal, identification processing of the data that has been received from any one terminal and output to the private computer or the shared computer, said identification processing including utilizing an identifier corresponding to a connector through which a terminal is connected to encipher a received key code.”

Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended claims 1, 7 and 13 are not anticipated by Beasley, as Beasley does not teach each and every element of the claims. For example, Beasley does not teach the security unit as identified by the new language of the claims. In Beasley, a signal conditioning unit receives keyboard and mouse signals from a workstation and generates a serial data packet which is transmitted to a central crosspoint switch. Another signal conditioning unit coupled to a remotely located server computer then decodes the keyboard/mouse packet. The decoding performed by the signal conditioning unit is performed to convert the serial data packet from one condition, e.g., data format, to another format.

A signal conditioning unit that converts a data packet from one condition to another condition is not tantamount to or even related to a security unit that executes an identification processing of data for security purposes, as in the present invention. Therefore, claims 1, 7 and 13 are not anticipated by Beasley, as Beasley does not teach the feature identified by the above-quoted language of the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102, ANTICIPATION BY WILDER

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilder. Wilder is completely silent as to a security unit. The section of Wilder cited by the Examiner, that is, col. 1, lines 42-50, refers to a “KVM switching unit” that routes keyboard and mouse data, etc. to a computer. Absolutely no information is provided regarding a security unit that executes identification processing of data, as in the present invention.

Therefore, claims 1, 7, and 13 are not anticipated by Wilder, as Wilder does not teach the feature identified by the above-identified language of the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 over BEASLEY in VIEW of OSTERMANN

Claims 2, 8 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beasley in view of Ostermann. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 8 and 17 are patentable over Beasley in view of Ostermann, as neither Beasley nor Osterman, taken alone or

in combination, teaches or suggests all of the features of the present invention, as defined by the claims.

Beasley does not teach or suggest the feature identified by the proposed new language of claims 2 and 8 (via independent claims 1 and 7, respectively) and 17. *Please see argument in 102 section.*

Likewise, Ostermann does not teach or suggest the feature of the claims identified by the above-quoted language. Ostermann is directed to a system and method for transmitting enciphered data between first and second terminals over a data transmission channel. Although Ostermann relates generally to transmitting enciphered data, Osterman does not disclose or suggest information pertaining to "identification processing including utilizing an identifier corresponding to a connector through which a terminal is connected to encipher a received key code." In fact, Osterman does not appear to provide any details regarding how ciphering is performed, other than mentioning that a "cipher key" is used.

Therefore, neither Beasley nor Ostermann, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the feature of the present invention, as identified by the new language of the above-identified claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 over BEASLEY in VIEW of NELSON and OSTERMAN

Claims 3, 9, 18-20 and 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beasley in view of Nelson and Ostermann. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 9, 18-20 and 21-24 are patentable over Beasley in view of Nelson and Ostermann.

According to Beasley, it does not teach or suggest the feature identified by the proposed new language of independent claims 1, 7, 17 and 21. *Please see argument in 102 section.* As previously indicated, Ostermann does not teach or suggest the feature of the claims identified by the new language.

Nelson, also does not teach or suggest, "identification processing including utilizing an identifier corresponding to a connector through which a terminal is connected to encipher a received key code." According to Nelson, a real time digital encryption system is disclosed. Although Nelson indicates that the cryptographic system uses keys in conjunction with a plaintext signal, Nelson does not provide or suggest any information regarding a security unit for performing "identification processing including utilizing an identifier corresponding to a connector through which a terminal is connected to encipher a received key code."

Therefore, neither Beasley, Nelson, nor Ostermann, taken alone, or in combination, appear to teach or suggest the feature of the present invention, as identified by the new

language of the above-identified claims. As claims 3 and 9 depend from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, these claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons offered above with respect to their respective independent claims. As claims 22-24 depend from independent claim 21, these claims are also patentable over the references for at least the reasons offered above with respect to independent claim 21. As claims 18-20 depend from independent claim 17, these claims are also patentable over the references for at least the reason offered above with respect to claim 17.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 over WILDER

Claims 4, 10 and 25-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilder. Wilder is completely silent as to a security unit, identified by the proposed new language of independent claims 1, 7 and 25. Wilder refers to a “KVM switching unit” that routes keyboard and mouse data, etc. to a computer. Absolutely no information is provided regarding a security unit that executes identification processing of data, as in the present invention. As dependent claims 4 and 10 depend from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, these claims are patentable over Wilder for at least the reason offered above with respect to their independent claims, in addition to other reasons.

As claims 26-28 depend from claim 25, these claims are also patentable over Wilder for at least the reason offered above with respect to independent claim 25. Therefore, claims 4, 10 and 25-28 are not anticipated by Wilder, as Wilder does not teach or suggest the feature identified by the above-quoted language of the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 over BEASLEY in VIEW of ONSEN

Claims 5-6, 11-12 and 29-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beasley in view of Onsen. Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 7, 29 and 33 are patentable over Beasley in view of Onsen, as neither Beasley nor Onsen, taken alone, or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the features of the present invention, as defined by the claims.

Beasley does not teach or suggest the feature identified by the new language of the claims. *Please* see argument in 102 section. According to Onsen, it does not teach or suggest a security unit for performing “identification processing including utilizing an identifier corresponding to a connector through which a terminal is connected to encipher a received key code.” Onsen is directed to an information processing apparatus, a connection status displaying method, and an information processing system in which the connection status of a plurality of

connected devices can be confirmed. Onsen is completely silent as to a security unit for performing identification processing as identified by the proposed new language of the claims.

Therefore, in light of the foregoing, neither Beasley nor Onsen, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the feature identified by the above quoted language of claim 1, for example. As claims 5-6 depend from independent claim 1, they are also patentable over the references for at least the reason offered above with respect to claim 1. As claims 11-12 depend from claim 7, they are also patentable over the references for at least the reason offered above with respect to claim 7. As claims 30-32 and 34-36 depend from independent claims 29 and 33, respectively, these claims are also patentable over the references for at least the reasons offered above with respect to their independent claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Beasley

Claims 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beasley. Beasley does not teach or suggest the security unit as identified by the proposed new language of independent claim 13. According to Beasley, a signal conditioning unit receives keyboard and mouse signals from a workstation and generates a serial data packet which is transmitted to a central crosspoint switch. Another signal conditioning unit coupled to a remotely located server computer then decodes the keyboard/mouse packet. The decoding performed by the signal conditioning unit is performed to convert the serial data packet from one condition, e.g., data format, to another format. A signal conditioning unit that converts a data packet from one condition to another condition is not tantamount or even related to a security unit that executes an identification processing of data for security purposes, as in the present invention.

Therefore, the present invention, as defined by claim 13, is not taught or suggested by Beasley. As claims 14-16 depend from claim 13, claims 14-16 are patentable over Beasley for at least the reason offered above with respect to independent claim 13, in addition to other reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 37 is patentable over the references, as none of the references teach or suggest, "a connection unit adapted to connect a terminal to a private computer or a shared computer; and an identification processing unit coupled to said connection unit and adapted to utilize an identifier corresponding to a connector through which said terminal is connected to encipher a received code."

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Serial No. 09/878,336

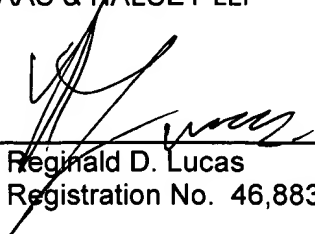
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 21 APR 05

By: 
Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501